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COOPERATIVE MARKETING OF FLUID MILK

Data regarding the cooperative marketing of milk have been collected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 128 producers' associations located in 30 states. These associations serve over 200,000 milk producers and in 1924 handled through their plants over 1,700,000,000 pounds of milk.

The first of the 128 associations was organized in 1882, 43 years ago. While its legal organization was that of a pecuniary profit company it has always been operated as a cooperative enterprise. In 1919 its legal form was changed to that of a cooperative. The second oldest association was formed in 1899 and the third in 1902. Eighty of the 128 associations have been active for five years or longer, 22 for ten years or longer, 7 for fifteen years, and 3 for twenty years or longer.

The associations reporting fall roughly into three groups: (1) those which bargain as to price and conditions of delivery, (2) those engaged mainly in wholesale distribution, and (3) those engaged mostly in retail distribution. Of the 128, 39 were classed as price-bargaining associations, 61 were engaged in wholesale distribution, and 28 in retail distribution.

Ten of the price-bargaining associations reporting are located in Ohio, 5 in Wisconsin, 4 in Illinois, 4 in Iowa, and the remainder in 12 other states. Fifteen of the associations selling at wholesale are located in New York State, eight in Massachusetts, and eight in Vermont. Seven of the associations engaged in retailing are in Pennsylvania.

Over one-half of the total membership of 204,056 is credited to the price-bargaining associations. About 40 per cent of the membership is in the associations engaged mainly in wholesale distribution, and less than 4 per cent of the members are in the organizations concerned chiefly with the retail distribution of milk and cream. The leading states, crediting to each state the entire membership of the associations having headquarters within its borders, are: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts.

Two bargaining associations and one wholesale distributing association report memberships which in the aggregate amount to 52 per cent of the total membership. Ninety-five small organizations have less than 7 per cent of the total membership.

There was handled through the plants of the wholesaling and retailing associations in 1924 over 1,700,000,000 pounds of milk. More than 65 per cent of the total quantity was distributed at wholesale, about 7 per cent was manufactured, and less than 8 per cent was retailed.

COOPERATIVE HISTORY BECOMES BASIS FOR FICTION

The milk strike in New York State in 1916, which eventually resulted in the formation of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, is the subject of a recently published novel entitled "The Trouble Maker." The author, E. R. Eastman, was formerly editor and manager of the Dairymen's League News.

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BIG CREAMERY SHOWS WARES AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

Two exhibits were made at the South Dakota State Fair this year by the Equity Union Creamery of Aberdeen, S. D., one exhibit in the dairy building and one in the cooperative wing. In addition to products of the creamery and specimens of all kinds of packages in which the products are packed, placards and advertising matter called attention to the facts that the big creamery has 4,000 stockholders, that it is manufacturing 2,500,000 pounds of butter per year, and making nearly 100,000 gallons of ice cream. Information was also presented about other Equity Union centralized creameries and about the Equity Union sales agency in Chicago.

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COURSE IN DAIRYING OFFERED TO CONNECTICUT PRODUCERS

At the request of the Connecticut Milk Producers' Association, Hartford, Conn., a radio and correspondence course in dairy farming is being given by the Extension Service of the Connecticut Agricultural College. The course consists of 25 weekly lectures, each of which is sent out by radio, then a printed copy of the lecture is mailed to each subscriber. Of course, anyone may listen to the lectures, but it is believed that many will want to keep the printed copies for future reference. In order that the printed lectures may be preserved, a loose-leaf notebook will be supplied to each person enrolling for the course. To cover the cost of the notebooks a charge of \$1 will be made. Topics to be discussed include: feeding, breeding, buying cows, hay and silage production, diseases, diversification on dairy farms, and marketing of milk.

It is stated that speakers will be recruited chiefly from the staffs of the Extension Service and the Dairy Division of the College; also that in communities where the dairymen care to organize in groups for more intensive study, the College will endeavor to supply specialists to discuss local dairy problems. This is the first effort of the College to conduct a correspondence course, and members of the Connecticut Milk Producers' Association are urged to take advantage of the opportunity.

ALL OUR PRUNES AND APRICOTS HAVE BEEN SOLD

Checks for final settlement for 1924 prunes were sent out to members on October 15 by the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association, San Jose, Calif. This distribution amounted to \$791,449. The settlement is one of the earliest on record as it is only about 14 months since the first 1924 prunes were received. It is very gratifying to the management to state that this payment brings all accounts with members up to date. All past crops have been settled for in full and the books now carry only the current accounts of the 1925 prunes and apricots.

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MINNESOTA EXCHANGE TO MARKET POTATOES THIS YEAR

By a vote of 37 to 2 the trustees of the Minnesota Potato Growers' Exchange, St. Paul, Minn., recently adopted a resolution to receive and market all potatoes which the members desired to deliver. It is planned to keep the exchange as nearly intact as possible until January. By that time the final settlement for 1924 potatoes will be completed, then plans can be made for the future. A step toward reorganization was taken when an advisory committee of six was appointed to work with the executive committee in formulating plans.

It is stated that as soon as the audit being made by the public examiner is completed, the plans for the final settlement will be announced.

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BULLETIN DESCRIBES MARKETING OF NEW YORK POTATOES

Conclusions reached by an analysis of the records of farmers' cooperative potato-shipping associations in Western New York, form one feature of a recently issued bulletin entitled "An Economic Study of the Marketing of New York Potatoes." The study, which has been published as Bulletin No. 440 of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., was made by M. P. Rasmussen. About twenty pages are given to a study of farmers' cooperative associations.

For the 1921-22 season seven organizations were studied, and in 1922-23 the number was increased to twelve, including the seven studied the previous year.

The records compiled show the volume of potatoes shipped; the primary and group operating costs; warehouse costs; equipment costs; brokerage and commissions; sacks, tags and twine; total operating costs; amounts paid to growers; also comparisons of group operating costs and returns on different bases, as: bushel basis, hundredweight basis, percentage of total operating costs, and percentage of net sales. Many tables and cuts are introduced in the text.

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF CRANBERRY CROP MARKETED COOPERATIVELY

Approximately 66% of the American cranberry crop is marketed through cooperative channels. Since 1907 the quantity shipped from the three principal producing regions has ranged from 275,600 barrels to 638,000 barrels. The percentage handled cooperatively has varied from 34 per cent for the marketing season of 1907-08 to 66 per cent for the season of 1924-25. Total shipments from three principal producing regions, number of barrels sold cooperatively and percentage sold cooperatively for the various seasons since 1907 are given in the following table prepared from data furnished by the American Cranberry Exchange:

Season	Total : shipments ^{/a} : (Barrels)	Quantity marketed : cooperatively : (Barrels)	Per cent marketed : cooperatively
1907-08	427,000	143,646	34
1908-09	320,000	110,274	34
1909-10	568,000	207,314	36
1910-11	544,000	188,062	35
1911-12	446,000	235,696	53
1912-13	457,000	255,694	56
1913-14	469,700	277,767	59
1914-15	638,000	339,738	53
1915-16	454,000	259,780	57
1916-17	544,200	279,475	51
1917-18	275,600	154,812	56
1918-19	351,700	209,666	60
1919-20	556,000	333,211	60
1920-21	440,000	282,473	64
1921-22	371,000	244,771	66
1922-23	565,000	373,315	66
1923-24	625,000	390,976	63
1924-25	557,000	367,189	66

^{/a} For territory east of Rocky Mountains.

Total shipments during the 18-year period amounted to 8,600,000 barrels of which 4,653,560 barrels (54%) were marketed cooperatively.

Of the total cooperative shipments about 57% came from the Cape Cod region, about 33% from Long Island and New Jersey sections and about 10% from the Wisconsin region.

From 34% to 63% of the Cape Cod berries, from 23% to 71% of the New Jersey and Long Island berries and from 61% to 94% of the Wisconsin berries are marketed cooperatively.

In addition to three associations and their sales agency, there is at Astoria in Oregon the Pacific Cranberry Exchange which is marketing annually a few thousand barrels. The quantity however, is not large enough to change materially the figures indicating the portion of the total crop marketed through cooperative channels.

SASKATCHEWAN ELEVATOR PAYS FOURTEENTH DIVIDEND

Checks for the 14th annual dividend were mailed in September to its 27,000 shareholders by the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, Regina, Sask. The total amount of this distribution was \$191,730.

In reporting this payment the management points out once more that the handling of immense quantities of grain and paying a cash dividend each year are by no means the only objects for which the company is working. Its chief aims include also "the providing of a maximum of efficient handling service at the minimum cost, through which the producer may obtain the topmost price his grains will bring in the import markets of the world, coupled with a policy of equal treatment to every class of patron -- whether wagon lot or carlot shipper."

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL AND ELEVATORS

An agreement has been reached by representatives of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Wheat Producers, Ltd., and the elevator companies as to how the growers and handlers of grain can cooperate for the best interests of all. Many conferences were held before the plans were completed and a permanent advisory committee appointed to further and protect the best interests of pool members and company shareholders. This committee consists of four representatives from the Saskatchewan Cooperative Wheat Producers, two from the United Grain Growers, and two from the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company.

A circular letter on the subject has been issued by the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, giving the following details:

The initial charges for handling street Pool grain and for commission service will be those under contract of the Pool with the elevator companies generally, while the Company's regular handling charges will obtain on car load lots, Pool or non-Pool.

At the close of the year, however, when the cost of these services has been ascertained and a fair provision made for the interest of the shareholders, the Saskatchewan Elevator Company will pay back to the Pool direct all that it will have received from these charges in excess of the above. The increases in the Company's handlings from the support of Pool contractors will give a saving to the Pool by reducing the cost of handling per bushel. The Company will further pay to the Pool all its terminal profits made on Pool grain.

You can secure unexcelled service and at the same time help the Pool and the Company by delivering your grain through co-op. elevators; also you can thus help to cement all of these great farmer-owned grain organizations into a friendly federation with a maximum of power to serve, and preserve the best interests of the grain-growing farmers of Saskatchewan.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL EXPECTS ANOTHER MILLION ACRES

Recent advices from the Alberta Cooperative Wheat Producers, Limited, Calgary, Alta., state that the membership of the organization is increasing at a more rapid rate than ever before and it is expected that a million additional acres will be signed up by the end of the year. This will give the pool a very large percentage of the wheat crop.

Contracts for a coarse grains pool are being sent out to the present membership to ascertain the extent of the demand. If a sufficient number of these contracts are signed to indicate a strong demand it is expected that coarse grains will be handled this season.

A new line of effort is the construction of elevators. Three sites have been selected on a new railway line and building operations will begin at once. The elevators will be of standard design, of 40,000 bushel capacity, and with cleaning machinery.

Threshing has been delayed by unfavorable weather, including almost continuous snow for ten days, and much of the grain is still in the fields.

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BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF NORTH DAKOTA ELEVATOR

Gross profits from sales for the Equity Elevator and Trading Company, Sheyenne, N. Dak., for the nine years ending May 31, last, were \$169,358. Other income amounted to \$26,420. General expenses for the nine years amounted to \$56,057. At close of the period there was outstanding capital stock to the amount of \$23,250 and a balance in the surplus account of \$23,489.

The following tabulation compiled from the printed reports of the company shows the amount of capital stock issued at the close of each of the last four business years, the amount of the surplus, the gross profits on sales for the several years and the general expenses of operation:

Year ending June 30	Capital stock paid up	Surplus	Gross profit on sales	General expenses
1921	\$7,361	\$31,692	\$5,557	\$7,608
1922	7,311	38,723	11,077	6,728
1923	7,500	34,685	16,553	7,464
1924/a	23,300	20,534	17,335	6,899
1925/a	23,250	b23,489	21,812	7,741

/a Year ending May 31.

/b Including undivided profits.

MISSOURI LIVESTOCK MEN STAGE GRADING DEMONSTRATIONS

Eight demonstrations of the grading and handling of livestock were held recently in four Missouri counties. All-day meetings were arranged by officials of several shipping associations, the Producers' Commission Association, East St. Louis, and the extension division of the Missouri College of Agriculture, for the purpose of illustrating the classes into which the various animals are grouped for selling on the East St. Louis market. An important feature of the daily program was a demonstration in grading livestock by a member of the Producers' association. Another feature was a grading contest by farmers.

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ACTIVITIES OF THIRTEEN PRODUCERS' LIVESTOCK SALES AGENCIES

According to figures recently released by the National Live Stock Producers' Association, Chicago, 8.9 per cent of the animals received at 13 terminal livestock markets during August were handled by the sales agencies affiliated with the National Producers. The percentages for the different markets varied from less than 2 per cent to over 50 per cent, as is shown below:

<u>Terminal market</u>	Per cent of total receipts handled by producers' <u>sales agency</u>
Evansville, Ind.	53.05
Peoria, Ill.	23.88
Indianapolis, Ind.	24.11
Cleveland, Ohio	19.70
Buffalo, N. Y.	17.77
Pittsburgh, Pa.	15.41
St. Louis, Mo.	13.37
Fort Worth, Tex.	9.75
Cincinnati, Ohio	8.82
Chicago, Ill.	5.57
Sioux City, Iowa	4.41
Oklahoma City, Okla.	2.28
Kansas City, Mo.	1.74

There was considerable variation in the percentages for the different kinds of animals. In the case of cattle the Producers' cooperative sales agency at Evansville handled 54.5 per cent of cattle received. The Indianapolis sales agency was in second place with 20.26 per cent. Fifty-two per cent of the calves received at the Peoria market were handled by the cooperative, as well as 54 per cent of the hogs and 42 per cent of the sheep.

The thirteen sales agencies handled 3.3 per cent of the cattle received at the 13 markets, 10.35 per cent of the calves, 13.39 per cent of the hogs and 6.23 per cent of the sheep.

ARIZONA COTTON ASSOCIATION RE-SIGNS OLD MEMBERS

A campaign to re-sign old members is being conducted by the Arizona Pima cotton Growers, Phoenix, Ariz. During the first week, 168 members signed new contracts, which are for five years beginning with the 1926 crop. The campaign is being conducted by the members of the board of directors aided by grower members and one field man.

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LOUISIANA COTTON COMING IN RAPIDLY

Cotton is being received by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Shreveport, La., at the rate of 4,000 bales a week. On September 18, nearly 13,000 bales had been delivered by members in 52 parishes, and advances had been made totalling nearly \$900,000. Up to September 16 of 1924, but 3,164 bales were received. The total number of bales handled during the 1924-25 season was 26,537.

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TENNESSEE COTTON ASSOCIATION HANDLING OWN SALES

Cotton picking is in progress in Tennessee and 9,000 bales have already been delivered to the Tennessee Cotton Growers' Association, Memphis. Although the season is two weeks earlier than last year, the management of the association believes that this fact accounts only in part for the increased deliveries. The prevalence of a better feeling among members is noted, with more confidence in the ability of the organization. Many new members have come into the association in the last few weeks so as to be in before the date set by the directors for closing the membership rolls. It is expected that many members who have never delivered any cotton to the association will deliver this year. The slogan adopted is: "Every bale from every member," and it is proposed to make an inquiry of every member who fails to deliver his cotton and to institute proceedings when necessary.

The credit corporation set up by the cotton association has now begun to operate. Its first business was to make a loan to a member who will have a 50-bale crop. A bank which held a mortgage on this cotton refused to allow it to be sold through the association. As the amount of the mortgage was safely within the value of the cotton, the credit corporation made a loan to the grower at 6 per cent to pay his indebtedness to the bank, and he will deliver his cotton to the association. It is announced that next spring, credit will be available through the corporation for production purposes.

This year for the first time the Tennessee association will sell its own cotton. The first two years of its existence the sales were handled by the Arkansas Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Little Rock.

NEW RECORD FOR NORTH CAROLINA COTTON ASSOCIATION

With the receipt of 5,000 bales of cotton in one day, the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Raleigh, established a new record. On the same date last year 130 bales were delivered. Indications are that a much larger percentage of the total crop will be handled through the association than in any of the three years previous. Last year this association handled a larger percentage of the cotton production of the state than most of the other state associations. Strenuous efforts will be made this year to keep the lead. It is stated that the bankers and supply merchants throughout the state are giving their warm support to the association and that more mortgaged cotton has been released than has ever been released before.

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NORTH CAROLINA COTTON ASSOCIATION COMPLETES THIRD YEAR

In round figures the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Raleigh, N. C., has sold cotton to the value of \$49,000,000 during the three years that it has been operating, according to the annual statements issued at the close of each business year. The several amounts representing gross sales are subject to deductions because of claims, freight, and certain direct charges incurred by the various agencies which handled the cotton. Members of the association received advances of over \$43,000,000 during the three years. Overhead expenses, which represent the costs of operating the association, amounted to \$1,200,000. At the close of the third year, reserves, which are the working capital of the organization, amounted to \$534,229.

In the table below, compiled from the annual financial statements, the significant facts connected with the three years of activity are given:

Year ending July 31	Bales sold	Gross sales	Advances to members	Overhead expense	Reserves
1923 a/	125,481	\$16,705,722	\$13,356,049	\$424,038	\$253,910
1924	130,853	19,231,254	17,794,783	426,760	384,815
1925	116,562	13,228,433	12,412,593	358,271	534,229
Total	372,896	49,165,409	43,563,425	1,209,119	

a/ Ending August 31.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO GROWERS SIGNING NEW CONTRACTS

Tobacco growers in the dark fired region of Virginia are circulating copies of a five-year contract running to the Virginia Dark Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, an organization which they propose "shall protect them" whether or not the other sections of the Virginia-Carolina tobacco country continue to employ cooperative methods of marketing. The contract was approved at a recent meeting attended by representatives of tobacco growers from 14 counties. The proposed contract calls for a sign-up of 75 per cent of the growers of dark fired tobacco by November 1, 1926. It is stated that the new contract will make it very difficult for growers to avoid the delivery of tobacco by transferring their lands to some member of their family. An organization committee has been appointed, also a campaign committee.

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FINAL STATEMENT BY MIAMI VALLEY TOBACCO ASSOCIATION

A complete and final statement has been issued by the Miami Valley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, Dayton, Ohio, relative to the pool for the 1923 crop, the first handled by the association. The final figures vary but slightly from those previously given out which were used as a basis for the article appearing in Agricultural Cooperation for June 3, 1925, p. 244.

The final statement gives 19,787,954 pounds as the total quantity of tobacco received. This quantity made 60,714 cases.

Net sales are given as \$1,856,541 and total expenses as \$414,503. The difference between the two figures, \$1,442,033, presumably represents the growers' equities.

The total expenses was made up of the following sub-totals:

Administration, selling, field service	\$141,808.32
Interest, insurance, trustees' fees	66,217.19
Receiving and handling	
Labor, freight, etc.,	\$166,205.40
Grading	8,056.38
Storage (warehouse rentals, etc., ...)	32,220.88
Total expense	<u>206,483.16</u>
	414,503.67

Administrative expense, interest, insurance, selling etc., amounted to 1.05 cents per pound of tobacco handled, and receiving and handling expenses to 1.044 cents a pound.

COOPERATIVE BUYING IN GREAT BRITAIN

"Cooperative Purchase of Agricultural Requisites, A survey of the present position in England and Wales," is the title of pamphlet No. 5 in the Economic Series of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The report, which was prepared by the Markets and Cooperation Branch of the Ministry, deals with the development of the societies for the purchase of agricultural supplies and gives much detailed information.

According to the report the pioneer organization in England for the purchase of farmers' supplies was the Agricultural and Horticultural Association, London, organized in 1867 and continuing nearly 50 years, with some 3,000 members and a capital of \$1,250,000. A few similar societies were formed in succeeding years and in 1900 the number had reached a total of eleven. Among the early societies was the Midland Counties Agricultural Supply Association which undertook the manufacture of certain kinds of implements.

With the formation of the Agricultural Organization Society in 1901, the development became more rapid and at the outbreak of the War in 1914 there were more than 200 societies with a membership of about 24,000 and an annual turnover of nearly \$3,000,000. Disorganized conditions during and since the war brought many changes with a net result of a smaller number of organizations, but a larger number of members and an increased turnover.

In the year covered by the report (1923) there were 193 societies with a membership of 60,066 and a turnover of approximately \$40,000,000. These organizations are grouped by the writer in three general classes: truckload (carlot), storage, and delivery. The first type purchases goods in carlots, arranging for delivery at the railroad station of the member; the second type stores goods purchased and depends upon members to call for and transport the supplies which they have ordered; the third type arranges for delivery direct to the premises of the members. The line of demarcation between the last two groups is not clean cut, some societies performing more than one function.

A few of the more significant figures regarding the operations of the societies are shown in the table below:

Type	: Number of : : societies :	: Number of : : members :	: _____ : : Total :	Turnover : _____ : : Av. per: Av. per: : : society: member: :	: Share : _____ : : capital : : paid up :
Truckload	: 20	: 2,454	: 177,413	: 18,871 : 171	: 113,018
Storage	: 79	: 18,531	: 1,140,330	: 14,435 : 62	: 164,631
Delivery	: 94	: 32,031	: 6,835,337	: 73,254 : 176	: 819,300
Total	: 193	: 60,066	: 8,203,580	: 42,506 : 137	: 996,949

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS CARRY THEIR OWN INSURANCE

Business conducted by the Farmers' and Settlers' Cooperative Insurance Company of Australia, Limited, for the year ending January 31, 1925, amounted to \$450,000, according to the directors' report and balance sheet presented at the annual meeting held at Sydney on April 28, 1925. For the same period the net premium income amounted to \$230,000.

The organization has over 7,000 members and its agencies scattered through the states number more than 500. It has an authorized capital stock of 500,000 shares at 10 s. each, or £250,000 (\$1,216,625). Paid-up capital is about \$235,000 and the sum of \$3,000 is held as a premium reserve. Liquid assets now total \$200,000. Dividends to the amount of \$82,000 have been returned to the farmers and producers.

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RUSSIAN CONSUMER SOCIETIES ARE INCREASING

Consumers' Cooperation has made rapid strides in Russia since 1913, according to information published August 19, 1925, in "Kooperativni Put" (The Cooperative Way). At the present time in Soviet Russia more goods are handled at wholesale and retail by the cooperative enterprises than through any other single channel. Thirty-five per cent of the total volume of trade is conducted by cooperatives, while about sixty-five per cent of all articles of household consumption are so handled. In 1924-25 about 50% of the crops were marketed cooperatively and it is expected that a larger share of the bumper crops of 1925 will be marketed in this way.

Growth since 1913 is indicated by the figures below:

Year	: Number : of : societies	: Number of : shareholding : members	: Turnover
			(Rubles) ^{a/}
1913	: 10,980	: 1,400,000	: 250,000,000
1922-23	:	:	: 850,000,000
1923-24	:	:	: 2,000,000,000
1924-25	:	:	: 1,750,000,000 ^{b/}
(First half year)	:	:	:
Apr. 1, 1925	: 25,000	: 8,720,000	: -----
	:	:	:

a/ Par value of the ruble is 51.5 cents.

b/ Prewar value.

Of the total membership, 1,362,000 are women, and 60,988 women are actively employed by the various organizations.

The "Centrosoyus" (All-Russian Union of Consumers' Unions) is now in its 27th year of continuous activity. Its capital had risen from 270,000 rubles in 1923 to 30,360,000 rubles on October 1, 1924.

The movement is now voluntary in character, in contrast with the period of compulsory cooperation in 1918-1921 when communism was being tried out.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE A FACTOR FOR PEACE

August 19, 1925, was the thirtieth anniversary of the organization of the International Cooperative Alliance, which one writer characterizes as follows: "This is the only organization in the world which brings together every year cooperative business delegates from every corner of the world. It is without a doubt a great factor for international economic peace."

A latent idea of an international organization smoldered for a number of years in several countries where the cooperative movement was developing most rapidly. This finally led to the founding of the present alliance in London, August 19, 1895, by representatives of 12 countries, as "an autonomous organization for the realization of the cooperative ideal -- the creation of a Comparative Commonwealth." The 12 participating countries were as follows: England, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Servia, Austro-Hungary, Denmark, United States of America, Argentina, and Australia. At the present time the number has increased to 34.

All forms of cooperation were associated in the new alliance, "notably cooperative production, and those forms of cooperation which were calculated to enable the workers, as producers, to become their own masters." During the thirty years the consumers' cooperative societies have steadily forged ahead until the alliance has come to be predominantly an organization of consumers' societies, thus reversing the original plan.

An international congress is held each year. In the program for the first congress the prominent questions for discussion included: International Trading Relations, Cooperative Banking and the Organization of an International Cooperative Exhibition. The two former problems are still before the alliance awaiting their full solution. The question of international cooperative banking was one of the important matters at a meeting held in Stockholm in June. An exhibition was held in connection with the convention in Manchester in 1902, and another which was characterized as "magnificent and unique" at Ghent in 1924.

Figures showing the increase in development since 1913, the last Congress before the war, are given below:

Year	: Number : of : countries	: Number : of : unions	: Number of : individual : societies	: Number of : cooperators : represented
1913	: 24	: 55	: 3,971	: 20,000,000
1924	: 30	: 46	: 74,330	: 44,000,000

At the present time it is stated that the movement represents at least 50,000,000 individual members.

News and statistics regarding the progress of cooperation in many countries are published in the International Cooperative Bulletin, the official organ of the International Cooperative Alliance. This bulletin is published monthly in London in three languages, English, French and German.

BRITISH WRITER REPORTS ON AMERICAN COOPERATIVES

"Large Scale Cooperative Marketing in the United States of America," is the title of a report by R. B. Forrester, Cassel Lecturer in Commerce in the University of London, to the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, following a study made at the request of the Ministry. This report has appeared as No. 4 of an Economic Series being issued by the Ministry.

Because of the rapid expansion of cooperative marketing in the United States in recent years, the writer was commissioned to visit this country and make a first-hand study of the subject in order that British agriculturists might be informed regarding the main features of the policies and practices, as well as the limitations and possibilities of the present movement. As the large-scale association handling a substantial portion of a commodity for a producing area, is unknown in Great Britain, the major part of the report is devoted to organizations of this type, "with a view of casting into relief the constructive ideas which are being worked out in the organization of the large-scale cooperative."

The results of the study are arranged under the following chapter headings: I. The economic background; II. The extent, magnitude, and localization of the movement; III. Types of large-scale cooperative organizations; IV. The membership contract and the membership service; V. Organization and management problems (pooling and orderly marketing); VI. The forms of financial organization--capital stock and non-stock; VII. Cooperative marketing associations in relation to state and federal law; VIII. Large-scale cooperative marketing associations and their economic significance.

Among the large scale organizations described in some detail are the following: the California Fruit Growers' Exchange; the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers; the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association; the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, Inc.; Twin City Milk Producers; Dairymen's League Cooperative Association; the Inter-State Milk Producers' Association; the Chicago Milk Producers' Cooperative Company; the Central Cooperative Livestock Commission; the National Livestock Producers' Association; the California Cattlemen's Association; the Northwest Wheat Growers, Associated; the Poultry Producers of Central California; and the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association. The differences in form of organization of such associations are illustrated graphically by means of charts. After a thorough discussion of the subject the principal features of these associations are brought together and summarized. Certain typical membership contracts are quoted in full, also examples of by-laws and articles of association.

The economic significance of these large-scale enterprises is discussed in the final chapter for the consideration of the British farmers in determining "whether and in what way its salient features can be applied to British conditions."

A large part of the statistical and tabular material included in the study was supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture to which the author acknowledges his indebtedness.

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT SUSTAINS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Nebraskas Wheat Growers' Association is a cooperative association formed under the laws of Kansas. It is engaged in business in Nebraska and successfully brought suit there against C. C. Norquest & Sons, a partnership, each member of which was a member of the association, to restrain them from selling 854 bushels of wheat grown by them in 1924 outside of the association, and also for the purpose of recovering liquidated damages to the extent of \$12.50 on 50 bushels of wheat which defendants had sold to buyers other than the association. (204 N. W. 798).

The defendants claimed that the contract was unconscionable and in violation of law and demanded a rescission thereof. They also contended that the association had an adequate remedy at law and hence was not entitled to an injunction, and that the association should not be allowed to maintain the suit because it began doing business in Nebraska without having obtained the certificate required of foreign corporations desirous of doing business in that state. In answer to the contention that the contract was illegal the Supreme Court of Nebraska said:

However, as we view the contract in question, its purpose is not to retard, but to stimulate, trade, by intelligent and efficient management by the few in close touch with the demand for wheat, considered in connection with the mode and distance of its transportation, and its impelling enticement to buyers by reason of the quantity controlled by those in charge. It is organized for mutual help, is without capital stock, is not conducted for profit, but is a simple, businesslike scheme of those engaged in wheat growing to handle and market their product advantageously, and this without encroachment upon the rights of others. That it is without the evil aimed at by antitrust laws is proved by its being open to all; its profits, if any, divided without preference, and there being nothing within its scope or procedure which tends to control prices, restrain trade, or prevent competition.

In answer to the claim that the association was not entitled to an injunction because it had an adequate remedy at law through the recovery of damages, the court quoted with approval from the opinion of the Supreme Court of Kansas in the case of

Kansas Wheat Growers' Association v. Schulte, 216 Pacific 311, in which that court pointed out that the association there in question could not function unless its members delivered their grain to it in accordance with their contracts because without grain to market it was obvious that the association could not operate.

The third defense presented by the defendants was decided by the court against the defendants because the court found that the association was engaged in interstate commerce and for this reason it was not required to file a certificate under the laws of Nebraska dealing with foreign corporations. In this connection the court said:

We conclude that this is the proper interpretation of the clause in such section, which reads: 'Except such corporations engaged in interstate commerce as common carriers.' The words 'common carriers' as used being in a general sense, and not intended to limit such words to those engaged in actual transportation, but to include, as well, those engaged in a business partaking thereof, as plaintiff herein. To hold otherwise would be to run counter to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, which lodges in Congress the sole power to regulate interstate commerce.

With respect to this matter the court quoted the following, with approval, from an opinion by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Shafer v. Farmers' Grain Company, 45 Sup. Ct. 481:

Buying for shipment, and shipping, to markets in other states, when conducted as before shown, constitutes interstate commerce; the buying being as much a part of it as the shipping.

L. S. Hulbert.

SIX MORE STATES HAVE CREDIT UNION LAWS

Six states have been added during 1925 to the number having credit union laws on their statute books, Georgia being the sixth. Twenty-four of the forty-eight states of the Union now have such laws. The six which have been added to the list during 1925 are as follows: Iowa, Minnesota, West Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia. A revised bill is to be presented to the legislature of Washington in November or December.

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF MARKETS ASSISTS COOPERATIVES

Legal assistance has been given to more than 100 Wisconsin cooperatives by the State Department of Markets in the past four years. During the first four months of 1925, forty-nine of these associations were given legal counsel or were helped in some manner or other.

In organization work, articles of incorporation and by-laws and quite often marketing contracts are drawn up. A trust agreement, as a basis for obtaining loans from the bank, is sometimes required, and again a cross contract between marketing associations and storage corporations is needed.

Among the Wisconsin cooperatives which were assisted by the State Department of Markets are: the Northern Wisconsin Cooperative Tobacco Pool, Wisconsin Cheese Producers' Federation, Wisconsin Cooperative Creamery Association and Wisconsin Certified Seed Potato Cooperative Association.

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A NEW KIND OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN CALIFORNIA

Associations are being formed among the citrus growers of Southern California for the purpose of erecting and operating cooperatively large storage tanks for the oil used in heating orchards during frost periods. It has been found that the cost of storing oil is very much less when the storing is done on a large scale. Therefore, cooperative associations are being formed to erect large tanks and to receive and measure out the oil. Members of the companies take shares of stock in proportion to the amount of storage space which they wish to use. Each grower, however, buys his own supply of oil and pays his pro rata share of the expenses of maintaining the tank, receiving oil and measuring it out.

In order to encourage this type of cooperative enterprise the Mutual Orange Distributors, Redlands, Calif., has offered the assistance of its legal department to such groups of growers as wish to unite for the collective handling of their storage problems.

It is reported in the last issue of Citrus Leaves, the official organ of the Mutual Orange Distributors, that because of efforts being made to protect the orchards, "Jack Frost will have a hot army to fight if he tries to invade the California citrus orchards the coming winter."

MEMBERSHIP OF ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION INCREASES

Membership in the Illinois Agricultural Cooperatives' Association, Chicago, Ill., has now reached a total of 174 associations. The services rendered by this organization consist of accounting and business advice, which are furnished on a cooperative basis.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WHEAT POOLS CALLED

A conference of representatives of wheat "pool" marketing associations of the United States, Canada, and Australia has been called for November 12 and 13 at Winnipeg, Manitoba. This international conference will be preceded by a conference of the pool associations of the three prairie provinces of Canada. The wheat marketing associations in the United States have been invited to send representatives to the meeting as have also the wheat marketing associations of Australia.

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FOURTH NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING CONFERENCE

Announcement has been made by the Washington office of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations that the Fourth National Cooperative Marketing Conference under the auspices of the Council will be held in Washington, January 12 to 15, 1926. The three preceding conferences have been held in Washington, the first in December of 1922, the second in February of 1924, and the third in January of 1925.

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FIRST DELIVERIES MADE OF ARKANSAS RICE

Deliveries of 1925 rice by members of the Arkansas Rice Growers' Cooperative Association, Stuttgart, Ark., began on September 18 at both Stuttgart and DeWitt. Harvest is now under way and the association is ready to receive the crop. Members are being warned not to cut their rice too green as that will injure its milling qualities. The association is also publishing information regarding approved methods of handling rice at threshing time, and is urging members to be sure to make an appointment for a delivery date, in order to avoid congestion, delay and demurrage, all of which are expensive.

CONGRESS AND COOPERATIVE MARKETING

"Congress and Cooperative Marketing" is the subject to which the October issue of the Congressional Digest is devoted. This publication, "which is not an official organ, not controlled by nor under the influence of any party, interest, class or sect" is issued monthly by Alice Gram Robinson, editor and publisher. The October issue is made up of the more significant statements from the public utterances of the past year of men in the executive departments of the federal government or in Congress.

The material is grouped under three main headings: (1) Cooperation at home and abroad, historical; (2) Cooperative marketing and the government; and (3) Pro and con discussions. Under the first heading are, "Rise of Cooperative Marketing in the United States" by Lloyd S. Tenny, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and "Cooperative Movement in Foreign Countries" by Huston Thompson, formerly chairman, Federal Trade Commission.

Among the titles under the second main heading are: "Federal Agencies which assist Cooperative Marketing Associations;" "Bureau of Agricultural Economics;" "Activities of the Division of Agricultural Cooperation" by Chris L. Christensen; "The Law and Cooperative Marketing Associations;" "President Coolidge Outlines Agricultural Policy" (extracts from address at International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago, December 4, 1924); "Secretary Hoover Analyzes Wastes in Marketing" (extracts from address at Milwaukee, October 1, 1924); "Secretary Jardine's View of the Farmers' Problems" (extracts from address at Philadelphia, July 20, 1925); "Cooperative Marketing Legislation in 68th Congress;" and "President's Agricultural Conference" with the report of the conference and the recommendations reported in connection with the Haugen Bill, February 18, 1925.

The pro and con discussions are made up of extracts from the reports and speeches by members of Congress and others. Among those in Congress included in the pro side of the discussion are: Gilbert N. Haugen, Iowa; J. N. Tincher, Kansas; J. C. Ketcham, Michigan; Charles Brand, Ohio; and F. S. Purnell, Indiana; all republicans. The con argument is from the speeches of James B. Aswell, Louisiana; David H. Kincheloe, Kentucky; Martin Jones, Texas; and Meyer Jacobstein, New York; all democrats. The pro and con statements of men connected with farmers' organizations include pro statements by Charles S. Barrett, President, National Farmers' Union; Ralph P. Merritt, President, Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California; and Louis J. Tabor, Master, National Grange; all members of the President's Agricultural Conference. The con statements are by Aaron Sapiro, Counsel, National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations; J. N. Kehoe, Vice-President, Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association; and Charles W. Holman, Secretary, National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation. There are also extracts from statements prepared by L. J. Dickinson, U. S. Representative, Iowa, in support of the Dickinson substitute bill and Robert D. Carey, Chairman, President's Agricultural Conference, against the substitute bill.

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